

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 204518  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:KMCCORMICK:LFS

APPROVED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON

AF/S:DKEOGH

AF/I:WLEWIS

EUR/NE:JWORRELL

P:DTICE

PM/SAS:DHESTER

S/S:TGMARTIN

-----078880 262222Z /62

R 261948Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T STATE 204518

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MASS, BC, UK

SUBJECT:SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR BOTSWANA

REF: (A) GABORONE 1927, (B) GABORONE 1645, (C) GABORONE  
1894

1. SENIOR BOTSWANA OFFICIALS, IN WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS A CONSCIOUS POLITICAL DECISION, HAVE TURNED TO THE US TO REQUEST ARMS FOR BOTSWANA'S FLEDGLING DEFENSE FORCE. A READY RESPONSE IS COMPLICATED BY THE DILEMMA BETWEEN US

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 204518

SYMPATHY FOR A THREATENED, DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY'S LEGITIMATE NEEDS AND THE PRESIDENT'S STATED DESIRE TO REDUCE OVERALL US ARMS SALES AND MINIMIZE NEW MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS. WHILE MAKING CLEAR ITS PREFERENCE FOR US SOURCES,

BOTSWANA HAS ALSO APPROACHED THE BRITISH FOR MILITARY TRAINING AND COMMERCIAL WEAPONS SALES.

2. IN JUNE 1 MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE HABIB, HMG MINISTER OF STATE ROWLANDS REAFFIRMED INTEREST OF HMG IN PROVIDING BOTSWANA WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN FORM OF TRAINING, ORGANIZATION AND LIMITED COMMERCIAL SALES. REF (A) ENCOURAGES DEPT TO BELIEVE THAT JUST-COMPLETED UK MILITARY MISSION TO BOTSWANA MIGHT BE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND BRITISH PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING LOW-SOPHISTICATION WEAPONS, VEHICLES AND UNIFORMS TO BOTSWANA ON EITHER CASH OR CREDIT BASIS.

3. A SIGNIFICANT BRITISH ROLE IN HELPING MEET BOTSWANA'S DEFENSE NEEDS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. IT WOULD:

A) RESPOND TO UN FARAH COMMISSION'S APPEAL FOR INTER-NATIONAL AID TO HELP BOTSWANA MINIMIZE DAMAGE TO ITS DEVELOPMENT BUDGET CAUSED BY NEED TO CREATE DEFENSE FORCES;

B) FORCEFULLY ASSERT UK'S CONTINUING DETERMINATION PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN SUPPORT OF THREATENED FORMER BRITISH TERRITORY AND TRADITIONAL CUSTOMER;

C) NOT LEAST, EASE USG'S PROBLEMS WITH ENTERING INTO NEW ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP IN AFRICA AT A TIME WHEN US POLICY ON THIS POINT BECOMING MORE RESTRICTIVE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 204518

4. WE ARE AWARE THAT ABOVE REASONING DOES NOT MEAN HMG NECESSARILY ANXIOUS TO GO FURTHER THAN ALREADY INDICATED IN PROVIDING DEFENSE EQUIPMENT TO BOTSWANA. IN ADDITION TO COSTS, REF (B) SUGGESTS BRITISH CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE ADVERSE BLACK AFRICAN OPINION, ALTHOUGH IN VIEW FARAH REPORT SOURCE OF CONCERN IS NOT CLEAR. HOWEVER, BEFORE GOING FURTHER WITH US RESPONSE TO BOTSWANA'S REQUEST, DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF LIKELIHOOD THAT BRITISH COULD BE PERSUADED TO SHARE ANY SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF BURDEN. WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY'S DISCRETION APPROACHING FCO AT THIS STAGE ON ANY OR ALL OF ABOVE IN DEVELOPING REQUESTED ASSESSMENT. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SECURITY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE204518  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** KMCORMICK:LFS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770316-1138  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197708113/aaaafvh.tel  
**Line Count:** 114  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE  
**Message ID:** b776b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Reference:** 77 GABORONE 1927, 77 GABORONE 1645, GABORONE 1894  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1440538  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970908; srp 970908; srp 970908  
**Subject:** SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR BOTSWANA  
**TAGS:** MASS, PINS, BC, UK, US  
**To:** LONDON INFO GABORONE MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b776b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009